

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098690

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EG, LY

SUBJ: LIBYAN- EGYPTIAN UNION

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ALGIERS TEL AVIV
TRIPOLI TUNIS FROM PARIS MAY 22 REPEATED

QUOTE

PARIS 14232

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EG, LY

SUBJ: LIBYAN- EGYPTIAN UNION

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR AND DIRECTOR OF PARIS ARAB
LEAGUE OFFICE AMER, WHO HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH VISITING
EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR HAFEZ ISMAIL, TOLD EMBOFF
MAY 22 THAT POMPIDOU HAD RAISED ISSUE OF LIBYAN- EGYPTIAN
MERGER WITH ISMAIL DURING RECENT TALKS IN PARIS. ISMAIL
REPORTEDLY GAVE POMPIDOU " UNEQUIVOCAL" STATEMENT THAT UNION
WOULD TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED ON SEPTEMBER 1.

2. ACCORDING TO AMER, IT WAS CERTAIN THAT THERE WOULD BE
SINGLE FOREIGN OFFICE FOR TWO COUNTRIES AND THAT THERE WOULD BE
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NO DUPLICATION OF EMBASSIES. ROLE OF QADHAFI REMAINED TO BE WORKED OUT. QADHAFI WISHED TO BE COMMANDER- IN- CHIEF OF COMBINED ARMED FORCES ABOUT WHICH EGYPTIANS HAD RESERVATIONS. GOE, HE SAID, THINKING IN TERMS OF OFFERING QADHAFI VICE PRESIDENCY OF UNION.

3. COMMENT: AMER IS WIDELY TRAVELLED ARAB DIPLOMAT WHO HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM VISIT TO TRIPOLI AND CAIRO. BY VIRTUE OF HIS POSITION IN PARIS, HE WOULD HAVE HAD ACCESS TO ISMAIL. EMBASSY HAS NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION THAT ISMAIL WAS CATEGORIC ABOUT UNION PROSPECTS, BUT QUAI OFFICERS SEEM TO BE VEERING TOWARD POSITION THAT SOME KIND OF UNION PROBABLE IN SEPTEMBER. IRWIN UNQUOTE RUSH

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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